

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means built in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable non-volatile storing means built in the replaceable part;

accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means via a shared data bus; and

control means for sensing, at a time of image formation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well as in said first storing means.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

control means determines, when an image forming operation begins, operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under image forming conditions based on said operation specifications, and again sets, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, image forming conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means determines, when an image forming operation begins, operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under image forming conditions based on said operation specifications, and again determines, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, whether or not to again set image forming conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein when the information stored in each of said first storing means and said second storing means is representative of a plurality of conditions after the last use, said control means determines whether or not to again set image forming conditions condition by condition.

5. In an IC (Integrated Circuit) chip connected to a CPU (Central Processing Unit), which is built in an apparatus body of an image forming apparatus, when mounted to said apparatus body and including writable and readable nonvolatile storing means accessible under a control of said CPU, an access to said nonvolatile storing means is made via a data bus shared by said nonvolatile storing means and writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body, and

among information representative of a condition of operation of said apparatus body that varies in accordance with an operation of said apparatus body, information relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body is written to said storing means of said IC chip when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body.

6. In a replaceable part for an image forming apparatus including image forming means that is at least partly removable from an apparatus body of said image forming apparatus, said replaceable part includes an IC

chip connected to a CPU, which is built in said apparatus body, when mounted to said apparatus body and including writable and readable nonvolatile storing means accessible under a control of said CPU,

an access to said nonvolatile storing means is made via a data bus shared by said nonvolatile storing means and writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body, and

among information representative of a condition of operation of said apparatus body that varies in accordance with an operation of said apparatus body, information relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body is written to said storing means of said IC chip when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body.

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